

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 15373 191245Z

47

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 098142

O 191130Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7766

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 15373

EXDIS

JIDDA OR CAIRO ALSO FOR ASST SECY ATHERTON

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINS, EG, SY, SA, LE

SUBJECT: APPROACH TO SADAT AND SAUDIS RE SYRIAN MEDIATION IN
LEBANON

REFS: (A) CAIRO 12739:

(B) BEIRUT 15263

1. WE ARE GRATEFUL FOR CAIRO'S COMMENTS ON OUR REFTEL, AND
OF COURSE ACCEPT CAIRO AS BEST JUDGE OF EGYPTIAN INTENTIONS
BASED MERELY ON RESULTS OBSERVABLE HERE, HOWEVER, THE TWO
PUBLIC STATEMENTS BY SADAT ON LEBANON WERE ACCEPTED LOCALLY
AS OPPOSING SYRIAN EFFORTS TO SEEK A COMPROMISE POLITICAL
SOLUTION TO THE LOCAL CRISIS. MOREOVER, WE BELIEVE THAT AT-
TEMPTS BY THE LEBANESE (CHRISTIAN) RIGHT TO SEEK ASSISTANCE
OF ARAB COUNTRIES OTHER THAN SYRIA AND TO WELCOME INITIATIONS
(PERHAPS INSPIRED) THAT WOULD INVOLVE THE IRANIANS IN A MUSLIM
BACKED EFFORT TO SOLVE THE LEBANESE CRISIS ARE DESIGNED TO AVOID
THE CONCESSIONS THAT A SYRIAN MEDIATED POLITICAL SETTLEMENT WOULD
FORCE CHRISTIANS TO MAKE. WHATEVER MAY OR MAY NOT HAVE BEEN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 BEIRUT 15373 191245Z

REAL INSTIGATION OF KUWAIT CALL FOR LAST ARAB LEAGUE INITIATIVE

(WE HAVE SOURCE WHICH CLAIMS IT CAME FROM FRANGIE TO EGYPTIANS THROUGH LEBANESE AMBASSADOR TO EGYPT SABRA, A CONSERVATIVE MUSLIM) THE CHRISTIAN SIDE WILL NOT BE PREPARED TO ACCEPT NECESSARY COMPROMISES SO LONG AS IT BELIEVES POSSIBILITIES FOR EGYPTIAN, SAUDI, IRANIAN, OR OTHER CONSERVATIVE INITIATIVES EXIST.

2. NUANCE THAT BOTHERS US IS THAT EGYPTIANS (AND FOR THAT MATTER SYRIANS) MAY UNDERSTANDABLY BE GIVING HIGHER PRIORITY TO THEIR OWN MORE IMMEDIATE INTERESTS IN MATTERS AS IMPORTANT AS SECOND SINAI AGREEMENT, RELATIONS WITH VARIOUS PALESTINIAN ORGANIZATIONS, AND RESPECTIVE POSITIONS TO BE TAKEN IN UPCOMING UN DEBATES AND ANY POSSIBLE PEACE CONFERENCES. LITTLE LEBANON MIGHT GET LOST IN SUCH A BIG PICTURE.

3. CRUX OF THE PROBLEM, AS CAIRO POINTS OUT, IS THAT SADAT "IS SIMPLY NOT CONVINCED THAT SYRIA IS PLAYING ROLE OF HONEST BROKER". WE ARE RELUCTANT TO GET OUT AHEAD OF DAMASCUS ON THIS QUESTION, BUT FROM OUR VIEWPOINT BE PLAYING SOMEWHAT LESS COMPLICATED GAME THAN THEY ARE SUSPECTED OF. FOR EXAMPLE, INVITATION TO PHALANGE LEADER GEMAYEL WHO WAS OPENLY WOODED BY ASAD IN DAMASCUS ABOUT A WEEK AGO WAS FOLLOWED BY WELL-PUBLICIZED SUMMONS TO JUMBLATT FOR LONG MEETING IN DAMASCUS IN WHICH SYRIANS LET IT LEAK OUT THAT THEY SET FORTH THEIR POSITION IN NO UNCERTAIN TERMS. SINCE JUMBLATT RETURNED, HE HAS STOPPED ATTACKING SYRIAN SUPPORT. WILE RIFAAT ASAD AND FRANGIE FAMILY APPEAR TO BE PLAYING FOOTsie AND MAY PERHAPS BE INVOLVED IN MUTUALLY PROFITABLE CIGARETTE SUMUGGLING (IN WHICH CHAMOUNISTS MAY ALSO BE INVOLVED) THIS IS THE FIRST WE HAVE HEARD OF TONY FRANGIE BEING A CHANNEL FOR SYRIAN ARMS TO THE KATAEB (PARA 2 CAIRO REFTEL)

4. OUR RE-COMMENDATION FOR AN APPROACH INCLUDED ONE TO SAUDI ARABIANS, WHOM WE RECOGNIZED AS ALSO INTERESTED IN A LEBANESE SETTLEMENT AND WORKING BEHIND THE SCENES WITH MANY TO ACHIEVE IT. IF EGYPTIANS AND SAUDIS CAN REALISTICALLY BE EXPECTED TO PRODUCE EFFECTIVE SETTLEMENT OF LEBANESE SITUATION (IN SPITE OF PREDICTABLE SYRIAN OB-
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 BEIRUT 15373 191245Z

STRUCTIONISM), THIS WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE A PREFERABLE KIND OF SETTLEMENT FROM U.S. POINT OF VIEW THAN ONE PRODUCED PRIMARILY BY SYRIAN MEDIATION. IF THAT IS BEST USG JUDGMENT, WE WOULD RETRACT OUR RECOMMENDATION, OR AT LEAST MODIFY IT SUBSTANTIALLY. IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, SITUATION CONTINUES TO SUGGEST THAT EYPTIANS, SAUDIS, AND OTHERS ARE SUPPORTING CONSERVATIVE FORCES IN LEBANON BUT DO NOT HAVE CAPABILITY TO ENFORCE A REALISTIC POLITICAL RPT

POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, THEN WE REPEAT RECOMMENDATION THAT SYRIANS BE ALLOWED TO DO IT IF THEY CAN, EVEN ON THEIR OWN TERMS. WE ARE NOT ATTRACTED BY ALTERNATIVES SUCH AS POSSIBLE ARAB ARMED INTERVENTION HERE AND ARE HAPPY TO SEE THAT IN CAIRO'S ESTIMATION SADAT AND OTHER SOPHISTICATED EGYPTIANS VIEW LEBANON AS THE POWDER KEG IT IS.

5. OF COURSE WE WOULD LEAVE IT TO ASST SECY ATHERTON OR OTHER USG REPRESENTATIVES TO RAISE THIS MATTER WITH SADAT AND SAUDIS IN ANY WAY AND AT ANY TIME THEY JUDGED MOST EFFECTIVE. THIS JUST SEEMED LIKE A GOOD OPPORTUNITY.
GODLEY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: INTERVENTION, POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS, CIVIL DISORDERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BEIRUT15373
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750441-0938
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751225/aaaaavxl.tel
Line Count: 128
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <02 DEC 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: APPROACH TO SADAT AND SAUDIS RE SYRIAN MEDIATION IN LEBANON
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, EG, SY, SA, LE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006